



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOUR MEN CHARGED WITH FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH \$73,900 FOUND IN A BACKPACK

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on May 29, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a one count indictment against GURDEV SINGH, D.O.B. 11/14/60 of England, SUKHWINDER PAUL, D.O.B. 7/30/79 of England, JAGDESH SINGH, D.O.B. 8/11/73 of Tempe, Arizona, and RASHPAL CHEEMA, D.O.B. 11/27/78 of England, and a fifth person identified only as JOHN DOE.

The indictment alleges that the defendants with intent to defraud effected transactions with access devices (account numbers and PIN numbers) that had been issued to others, and obtained more than \$1,000 in a one year period. The indictment also alleges that the defendants are subject to forfeiture of several sums of cash found on May 3 and 4, 2003. Specifically, \$73,900 found in a backpack, \$4,927 found on GURDEV SINGH, \$4,359 found on JAGDISH SINGH, \$3,915 found on SUKHWINDER PAUL, and \$3,200 found on RASHPAL CHEEMA. The four named defendants were arrested on a federal complaint filed May 5, 2003. JAGDISH and GURDEV SINGH were released on bond, while PAUL and CHEEMA were detained.

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The federal indictment charges the defendants with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1029(a)(5), Fraud in Relation to Access Devices.

A conviction for Fraud in Relation to Access Devices carries a maximum penalty of 15 years, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Gilbert Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by Daniel R. Drake, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-540-PHX
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-101

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